

SHORE DUTY BIASED  
SIMS, SAYS DANIELS

Continued from First Page.

commendations for officers and men in the Armed Guard Service," Mr. Daniels began. "Only six had been recommended to me. If this had not been done by the Secretary of the Navy the mandate of Congress would have been ignored and some of the bravest young men in the world war would have gone unrewarded. Upon further examination I was astonished to find that only 119 enlisted men out of the 500,000 in the navy during the war were recommended for any high honor. I gave orders again to the bureau of navigation to make further study and give me a list of these splendid men who, without naval title or command, had reflected glory upon the navy. As a result of this very limited study, not yet complete, for there are other heroes in blue just as brave, thirteen enlisted men who were awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and sixty-eight more enlisted men were put on the list for Navy Crosses by the Secretary of the Navy. The greatest single constructive agency of naval warfare which did more to break the German naval morale

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than any other one thing was the mine barrage 230 miles long across the North Sea.

"As I examined the report of the Board of Awards, I was disappointed to find so few recognitions of the men who in service harder than can be described had carried out an American project in a great way and in quite as great a way had swept the mine field, jeopardizing their lives every minute they handled these high explosives. I therefore directed the bureau of navigation to look carefully into all reports and to place on the list the names of those in the mine barrage service known to deserve medals. As a result ninety-two were added to the list.

"Let me cite one single instance to show why it was impossible exclusively to accept the recommendations of Admiral Sims.

"I refer to Admiral Henry B. Wilson, at present commander in chief of the Atlantic fleet. No officer in the navy abroad rendered more distinguished service than Admiral Wilson. The greater part of the two million soldiers who went to France were escorted into French ports by forces directed by Admiral Wilson, who directed the movements of the convoys through the war zone, dealt with the army in all matters with reference to their embarkation and also protected the transports on their return through the war zone.

## Wilson Will Rank High.

"When the true history of the navy's part of the war is written the service of Admiral Wilson will rank with such men as Benson and Mayo and Sims and Holman. And yet with the record of most distinguished service in a place of the greatest responsibility Admiral Sims

omits him pointedly from every recommendation he made himself or approved.

"Now, why did Admiral Sims fail to recommend honor for this distinguished and faithful officer on whom the President had during the war, conferred the rank of Vice-Admiral and who in recognition of his great service in the war and his special fitness has since made him Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic fleet with the full rank of Admiral, the highest in the American Navy. I will not answer but there is a reason.

"There are two fundamental differences between the views of the Secretary of the Navy and Rear Admiral Sims in the award of medals. The position of Rear Admiral Sims in placing shore duty above sea duty in the danger zone is no doubt influenced by his own record. During the last twenty-five years, he has served about sixteen years on shore duty and about nine years on sea duty.

"On shore a man decides important questions in the quiet of office surroundings with time to weigh the pros and cons, and if he makes a mistake his error of decision is not immediately followed by disastrous results.

"At sea, particularly in submarine warfare, the commander, like all his men, is in imminent peril of death; he must make momentous decisions in a flash when his ship has been attacked and when coolness and poise are necessary to save the lives of scores and hundreds of men. A mistake in this emergency is fatal to an officer in command at sea.

"The shore point of view is illustrated by the statement of Sims: 'I owe all to my staff.' The seagoing point of view is illustrated by the statement of Nelson: 'I owe all to my captains.'

"The second fundamental difference

between the Secretary of the Navy and Rear Admiral Sims has been clearly stated by both. The Rear Admiral takes the ground that no D. S. M. should be given under any circumstances to a commander of a ship which is sunk or seriously damaged by enemy submarines. "The principle enunciated by the Secretary of the Navy is that the D. S. M. should not be denied to the Captain who, when his ship is struck by an enemy torpedo or mine, is thereby placed in a position of great responsibility and distinguishes himself by his conduct in the crisis, evidencing fearlessness in disregard of death and resourceful leadership with the utilization of all these attributes that show a man a hero when the hour strikes for his supreme trial.

"The proposition that awards are to be denied to men of demonstrated courage under fire and under stress during war because their ships were damaged or sunk is wholly indefensible. There are plenty of men like Lawrence and Sigbee just as deserving of high honors as officers and men whose ships through no lack of deathless valor could not be saved."

"According to the testimony of Admiral Sims there are three things in connection with the award of medals which have caused the morale of the navy to be 'shot to pieces.' The first was the award made to Commander Babcock, who was Admiral Sims's aid. He was my everything," said Admiral Sims, who declared he was the ablest man on his staff. Next he claims that the fact that six particular officers out of the nineteen which he had recommended for the D. S. M. were chosen for this award by the board and by the Secretary without referring the choice of the six to him, and that this choice was not properly made and that this 'shoots the morale of the navy to pieces.'

"Next he claims that the award of medals to commanding officers of ships which were sunk or damaged by enemy torpedo or mine is so radically wrong as to undermine the efficiency of the military organization. In this opinion he takes issue with the recommendations of Rear Admiral Niblack, Vice-Admiral Graves, Vice-Admiral Grant and Admiral Grant and Admiral Mayo, all the Admirals who were in command of the major units, all of whom recommended the D. S. M. to officers who showed rare qualities of leadership when their ships were damaged or sunk.

"It is an insult to the splendid men of the navy to say that the morale of the navy could be seriously impaired by any question of award to individuals. They are made of sterner stuff than to be

rattled by a matter so unimportant in comparison with their devotion to their duties. Their loyalty is in no sense dependent on medals or ribbons. The morale of the navy has suffered from the same influences that have affected the whole country, which has not yet recovered from the shell shock of war.

"Rear Admiral Sims in his testimony said in response to a request in which he said he had not recommended any enlisted men, said: 'We had nothing to give them at all.'


"The contrary is the fact, as an examination of the law will disclose. Some European countries fix a certain kind of cross for officers and another for enlisted men. The law which Congress enacted makes no distinction between an Admiral, Captain and enlisted man. It is the service he renders, the service in peril and not his rank that counts."

Mr. Daniels went before the committee at half-past 10 o'clock and immediately proceeded with the reading of his statement. The room was crowded chiefly with women, apparently the wives of navy officers who were interested in the controversy, which has been warm since Rear Admiral Sims appeared before the committee with his sensational charges two weeks ago.

## Republican Sent to State Senate.

BUFFALO, Feb. 3.—Pardon Swift, Republican, was elected to-day State Senator from the Forty-eighth district in a special election to fill the vacancy caused by the election of Ross Graves to the Buffalo City Council. The vote was: Swift, 6,740; Jesse Oppenheimer (Dem.), 5,685; Ralph E. Horne (Socialist), 916.

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